

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the consideration of the present application afforded by the Examiner. Claims 1-29 were pending and claims 9-17 were withdrawn from consideration prior to the Office Action. New independent claims 30 and 31 have been added through this Reply. Therefore, claims 1-29 are pending. Allowable subject matter was indicated in the Office Action. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested inasmuch as the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate that claims 3, 4, 7, and 8 are indicated to define allowable subject matter. By this reply Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claims 2 and 3, along with additional changes, into independent claim 1. The subject matter of claims 6 and 7, along with additional changes, have been incorporated into independent claim 5. New claims 30 and 31, which further define the manner for combining the image data, have also been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 22, and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,202,892 to Ogata et al. ("Ogata") in view of Wada (US 5,446,504). Inasmuch as the allowable subject matter previously indicated in the Office Action has been incorporated into the independent claims in the manner discussed above, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been properly traversed and addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been

made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited.

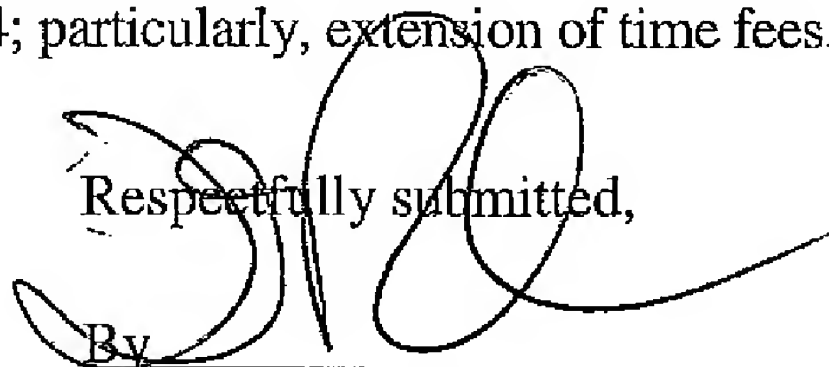
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Paul T. Sewell, Registration No. 61,784, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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